

CLAIMS

1. (Withdrawn) A contact lens package that is reusable as a case to store a contact lens between uses comprising:
  - a) a bottom member having a well with an inside generally concave shape, and a wall rising above the well and ending in a top rim defining an opening;
  - b) a temporary seal comprising a generally moisture-proof film sealed across the top rim to seal the opening, thus defining a volume within the package, the volume containing a contact lens and contact lens fluid; and
  - c) a cap placeable on the bottom member after removal of the temporary seal, the cap thus covering the top rim so as to provide storage of the contact lens between uses thereof.
2. (Withdrawn) The contact lens package of claim 1 wherein the package and its contents have been sterilized.
3. (Withdrawn) The contact lens package of claim 1 wherein the bottom member and cap are both made of a suitable polyolefin.
4. (Withdrawn) The contact lens package of claim 1 wherein the film is removably sealed to the bottom member.
5. (Withdrawn) The contact lens package of claim 3 wherein the polyolefin comprises polypropylene.
6. (Withdrawn) The contact lens package of claim 1 wherein a pull tab is fixedly attached to the film to allow a user to remove the film from the bottom member by grasping the pull tab.
7. (Withdrawn) The contact lens package of claim 6 wherein the pull tab constitutes an extended section of the film outside the perimeter of the seal.

8. (Withdrawn) The contact lens package of claim 6 wherein the pull tab is attached to the film in the area circumscribed by the seal.

9. (Withdrawn) The contact lens package of claim 1 wherein the film comprises an opaque foil.

10. (Withdrawn) The contact lens package of claim 1 wherein the film comprises a laminate of polypropylene, aluminum foil and PET.

11. (Withdrawn) The contact lens package of claim 1 wherein the contact lens fluid comprises a suitable primary contact lens storage solution.

12. (Withdrawn) The contact lens package of claim 1 further comprising a generally flat base extending outwardly from the bottom member.

13. (Withdrawn) The contact lens package of claim 12 wherein the base is configured to be interlocked with a base of a second package having a base with an identical configuration.

14. (Withdrawn) The contact lens package of claim 1 wherein the cap and bottom member have mating screw threads to secure the cap to the bottom member.

15. (Withdrawn) The contact lens package of claim 1 wherein the cap has an interference snap-on fit securing it to the bottom member.

16. (Withdrawn) The contact lens package of claim 15 further comprising a flexible strap between the cap and the bottom member.

17. (Withdrawn) The contact lens package of claim 1 wherein the bottom member is configured to snap into a receptacle formed on a generally flat base.

18. (Withdrawn) The contact lens package of claim 1 wherein the top rim provides sufficient surface area to allow for an effective seal to be obtained.

19. (Withdrawn) The contact lens package of claim 1 wherein the cap includes indicia for indicating whether the lens in the package is for use in the left eye or right eye of a contact lens wearer.

20. (Withdrawn) The contact lens package of claim 1 wherein the cap includes indicia indicating parameters of the contact lens inside the package.

21. (Withdrawn) The contact lens package of claim 20 wherein said parameters include the base curve, diameter and power of the lens.

22. (Withdrawn) The contact lens package of claim 1 wherein the contact lens is designed for a wear duration not exceeding one month.

23. (Withdrawn) The contact lens package of claim 1 wherein the film comprises a generally transparent film.

24. (Withdrawn) The contact lens package of claim 1 wherein the bottom member is at least partially transparent.

25. (Withdrawn) A contact lens package and storage system comprising:

a) a generally flat base member having two receptacles, one of the receptacles being for a left eye contact lens package and the other of the receptacles being for a right eye contact lens package; and

b) a plurality of contact lens packages each comprising:

i) a bottom member configured to be received by one of the receptacles and held securely onto the base;

ii) a cap capable of closing the bottom member to enclose a volume; and

- iii) a contact lens and contact lens fluid within the volume;
- c) wherein the plurality of contact lens packages include a generally equal plural number of
  - i) packages containing a contact lens to be used in the left eye of a contact lens wearer and
  - ii) packages containing a contact lens to be used in the right eye of the contact lens wearer.

26. (Withdrawn) The contact lens package and storage system of claim 25 wherein the packages for the left eye contact lenses are stacked on top of one another in a first tube and the packages for the right eye contact lenses are stacked on top of one another in a second tube.

27. (Withdrawn) The contact lens package and storage system of claim 26 further comprising a secondary shipping package containing the base member, first tube and second tube.

28. (Withdrawn) The contact lens package and storage system of claim 25 wherein the base further comprises an indicator for each receptacle that indicates the number of days that have elapsed since the package currently in the receptacle was placed therein.

29. (Withdrawn) The contact lens package and storage system of claim 28 wherein the indicator comprises an LCD indicator.

30. (Withdrawn) The contact lens package and storage system of claim 28 wherein each receptacle includes a switch which is activated by the process of placing a contact lens package in the receptacle, and activation of the switch causes the indicator to reset.

31. (Withdrawn) The contact lens package and storage system of claim 25 wherein the bottom member comprises a plurality of tabs that have press-in, self-locking corners that engage the base and hold the bottom member in the receptacle.

32. (Withdrawn) The contact lens package and storage system of claim 31 wherein the corners are designed to snap into place but be shorn off when the bottom member is removed from the receptacle.

33. (Withdrawn) The contact lens package and storage system of claim 25 wherein each package includes indicia on the cap indicating whether the lens is for the wearer's left or right eye.

34. (Withdrawn) The contact lens package and storage system of claim 26 wherein the first and second tubes are sealed with a tamper-evident seal.

35. (Withdrawn) The contact lens package and storage system of claim 25 wherein the bottom members each comprises a well and a top rim, and wherein the contact lens packages further comprise a generally moisture-proof film sealed across the top rim to seal the contact lens and contact fluid within the well.

36. (Withdrawn) The contact lens package and storage system of claim 25 wherein a plurality of the packages are connected to one another in a spaced apart relationship by one or more rigid elongated members.

37. (Withdrawn) The contact lens package and storage system of claim 36 wherein the bottom members of the connected packages are molded from a thermoplastic, and the one or more rigid elongated members comprise a runner formed during the molding process.

38. (Withdrawn) The contact lens package and storage system of claim 28 wherein the indicator changes color after a time period equal to the time period recommended for replacing the contact lenses in the packages.

39. (Withdrawn) The contact lens package and storage system of claim 28 wherein the indicator comprises an electrochemical indicator.

40. (Withdrawn) A method of using the contact lens package and storage system of claim 25 comprising:

- a) receiving the base member and plurality of contact lens packages;

b) securing a bottom member of a package containing a left eye contact lens in the receptacle identified as being for a package containing a left eye contact lens and securing a bottom member of a package containing a right eye contact lens in the receptacle identified as being for a package containing a right eye contact lens;

c) using the bottom members secured to the base as storage cases for the contact lenses originally contained in the packages when the contact lenses are not being worn, and continuing that storage use for a number of days that the lenses are recommended to be worn;

d) after the recommended number of days, disposing of the contact lenses and removing the bottom members from the receptacles and disposing of the bottom members; and

e) repeating steps b), c) and d) until the plurality of contact lens packages have been used and disposed of.

41. (Withdrawn) A method of distributing contact lenses comprising:

a) receiving an order from a contact lens wearer for a supply of contact lenses designed to be worn for a prescribed number of days, the order including lenses of a first prescription for use in the right eye of the wearer and lenses of a second prescription for use in the left eye of the wearer;

b) shipping the contact lenses requested in the order to the wearer in an outer package containing a plurality of individual contact lens packages, the plurality of individual contact lens packages comprising two different package types, a first of the package types containing lenses for the first prescription and the second of the package types containing lenses for the second prescription, the first and second package types being readily distinguishable from one another.

42. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 41 wherein the package types are readily distinguishable because they are made of different colored material.

43. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 41 wherein the individual contact lens packages each comprise a bottom member and a cap secured to the bottom member.

44. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 43 wherein the bottom member and cap of the first package type are both made of the same first color of material, and the bottom member and cap of the second package type are both made of the same second color of material, the first and second colors being readily distinguishable from one another.

45. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 43 wherein the package types are readily distinguishable because indicia on the packages signify the package as being for the left eye or for the right eye.

46. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 45 wherein the packages have a left eye designation and a right eye designation, and a place for a check mark to be made by each designation, and a check mark in one of the places.

47. (Withdrawn) A contact lens package that is reusable as a case to store a contact lens between uses comprising:

a) a bottom member having a well with an inside generally concave shape, and a wall rising above the well and ending in a top rim defining an opening;

b) a temporary seal comprising a generally moisture-proof film sealed across the opening, thus defining a volume within the package, the volume containing a contact lens and contact lens fluid;

c) a cap that is placeable on the bottom member after removal of the temporary seal to provide storage of the contact lens; wherein a foil covers the bottom member with the temporary seal and the cap.

48. (Withdrawn) A contact lens package that is reusable as a case to store a contact lens between uses comprising:

a) a bottom member having a generally concave shape;

b) a temporary seal comprising a generally moisture-proof film that seals an opening of the bottom member; and

c) a cap wherein the temporary seal sealing the bottom member comprises a film that also covers and provides a temporary seal over the cap.

49. (Withdrawn) The contact lens package of claim 1 wherein the cap provides a leak-proof seal when engaged with the bottom member.

50. (Withdrawn) A contact lens package that indicates whether a contact lens therein is to be worn in a left eye or a right eye, wherein the package is designated for use in the left or right eye by the contact lens manufacturer.

51. (Withdrawn) The contact lens package of claim 50 wherein the contact lens for the left eye has one prescription and the contact lens for the right eye has a second prescription.

52. (Withdrawn) The contact lens package of claim 50 wherein the package is marked for use in the left or right eye by one or more of a check mark, a color, a word, and a symbol.

53. (Withdrawn) A contact lens package that indicates whether a contact lens therein is to be worn in a left eye or right eye, wherein the package is designated for use in the left or right eye by the contact lens wholesaler.

54. (Withdrawn) A contact lens package that indicates whether a contact lens therein is to be worn in a left eye or right eye, wherein the package is designated for use as containing a left eye lens or a right eye lens at the same time the package is marked with a prescription applicable to the lens therein.

55. (Withdrawn) A method of packaging a contact lens wherein a contact lens is placed in the package; the package is designated for use as containing a left eye lens or a right eye lens at the same time the package is marked with a prescription applicable to the lens therein.

56. (Withdrawn) A package containing lenses to be worn in a right eye and contact lenses to be worn in a left eye comprising: a shipping package; and a plurality of individual contact lens packages; wherein the individual contact lens packages are marked for use of the contact lens in either the left eye or the right eye prior to shipment.

57. (Withdrawn) The package of claim 56 wherein the package contains at least a six month supply of both left and right contact lenses.

58. (Withdrawn) The package of claim 56 wherein the contact lenses for the left eye have one prescription and the contact lenses for the right eye have a second prescription.

59. (Withdrawn) A method of distributing an order for a contact lens comprising: placing the contact lens with one prescription for the left eye in a package that indicates the contact is for use in the left eye; placing the contact lens with a second prescription for the right eye in a package that indicates the contact lens is for use in the right eye; and shipping the order.

60. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 59 wherein package is indicated for use in the left or right eye by one or more of a check mark, a color, a word, and a symbol.

61. (Withdrawn) The contact lens package of claim 1 wherein the film is sealed to a marginal area around the top rim so as to seal across the top rim without being sealed to the top rim.

62. (Withdrawn) The contact lens package of claim 61 wherein after removal of the film, the edge of the top rim against which a contact lens in the package will be slid as it is removed from the well is smooth so as not to deface the lens.

63. (Withdrawn) The contact lens package of claim 1 wherein the bottom member is configured to rotate into a locked position within a receptacle formed in a generally flat base.

64. (Withdrawn) The contact lens package of claim 1 wherein the cap comprises a support member with a sealing surface thereon.

65. (Withdrawn) The contact lens package of claim 64 wherein the sealing surface is provided by a deformable sealing member supported on the support surface.

66. The contact lens package of claim 1 wherein the cap is adhered to the film that is sealed across the top rim.

67. (Withdrawn) A contact lens package that is reusable as a case to store a contact lens between uses comprising:

a) a bottom member having a well with an inside generally concave shape, and a wall rising above the well and ending in a top rim defining an opening;

b) a temporary seal comprising a generally moisture-proof film sealed across the top rim to seal the opening, thus defining a volume within the package, the volume containing a contact lens and contact lens fluid; and

c) a cap secured to the bottom member covering the temporary seal, the cap being removable to give access to the temporary seal and replaceable on the bottom member thereafter to provide storage of the contact lens between uses thereof.

68. (Withdrawn) A contact lens package and storage system comprising:

a) a generally flat base member having two receptacles and indicia identifying one of the receptacles as being for a left eye contact lens package and the other of the receptacles as being for a right eye contact lens package; and

b) a plurality of contact lens packages each comprising:

i) a bottom member configured to be received by one of the receptacles and held securely onto the base;

ii) a cap secured to the bottom member to enclose a volume; and

iii) a contact lens and contact lens fluid within the volume;

c) wherein the plurality of contact lens packages include a generally equal plural number of packages containing a contact lens to be used in the left eye of a contact lens wearer and packages containing a contact lens to be used in the right eye of the contact lens wearer.

69. (Withdrawn) A method of distributing contact lenses comprising:

a) receiving an order from a contact lens wearer for a supply of contact lenses designed to be worn for a prescribed number of days, the order including lenses of a first prescription for use in the right eye of the wearer and lenses of a second prescription for use in the left eye of the wearer;

b) shipping the contact lenses requested in the order to the wearer in an outer package containing a plurality of individual contact lens packages, the plurality of individual contact lens packages comprising two different package types, a first of the package types containing lenses for the first prescription and the second of the package types containing lenses for the second prescription, the first and second package types being readily distinguishable from one another.

70. (Currently Amended) A reusable holder for contact lens cases comprising:

a) a lid;

b) a base;

c) one or more receptacles for a contact lens case; and

d) a time keeping device; wherein the time keeping device comprises an indicator for each one or more receptacles that indicates a period of time that has elapsed since the contact lens case currently in the receptacle was placed therein to denote a need to discard said contact lens case and a contact lens associated with said contact lens case.

71. (Withdrawn) The holder of claim 70 wherein a hinge connecting the base and lid allows the holder to open and close.

72. (Currently Amended) The holder of claim 70, further comprising at least one contact lens case; wherein the contact lens case comprises a bottom member having a well with a generally concave shape.

73. (Withdrawn) The holder of claim 71 wherein the base and the lid close to form an airtight tight seal.

74. (Withdrawn) The holder of claim 71 wherein the base and lid close to form a fluid tight seal.

75. (Currently Amended) The holder of claim ~~70~~ 72 wherein the at least one contact lens ~~eases snap~~ case snaps into the receptacles.

76. (Currently Amended) The holder of claim ~~70~~ 72 wherein the contact lens ~~holder~~ case has a top and a bottom.

77. (Currently Amended) The holder of claim 76 wherein the bottom of the contact lens case is placed in the receptacle and then rotated 90 degrees to snap the bottom ~~and top~~ of the case into the receptacle.

78. (Original) The holder of claim 70 wherein the time keeping device comprises an LCD indicator.

79. (Original) The holder of claim 70 wherein the indicator shows the period of time that has elapsed by a display selected from a word, a symbol, a number, day of the week, and a color.

80. (Original) The holder of claim 70 wherein the indicator shows the period of time that has elapsed by a number of days.

81. (Currently Amended) The holder of claim 70 wherein the indicator shows the period of time that has elapsed changing from ~~one color to another~~ a first color to a second color, wherein said second color denotes a need to discard said contact lens case and a contact lens associated with said contact lens case.

82. (Currently Amended) The holder of claim 70 wherein the contact lens holder case is replaced after the period of time has elapsed.

83. (Original) The holder of claim 70 wherein the holder is selected from a plastic and a metal.

84. (Original) The holder of claim 70 wherein the time keeping device is reset when a new contact lens case is inserted.

85. (Currently Amended) The holder of claim 70 wherein the contact lens case is comprised further comprising:

a mechanical timer reset switch disposed in said one or more receptacles; of a mechanical device

wherein said mechanical timer reset switch is configured to which automatically resets reset the time keeping device when a contact lens case is inserted into the receptacle.

86. (Original) The holder of claim 70 further comprising a battery, wherein the battery powers the time keeping device.

87. (Withdrawn) The holder of claim 70 wherein the receptacle slide out from the side of the base to allow insertion of the contact lens case.

88. (Original) The holder of claim 70 wherein the holder has receptacles in the base.

89. (Withdrawn) The holder of claim 70 wherein the holder has receptacles in the lid.

90. (Withdrawn) The holder of claim 70 wherein the holder has receptacles in the base and the lid.

91. (Withdrawn) A contact lens package that is reusable as a case to store a contact lens between uses comprising:

a) a bottom member with a well and a contact lens therein;  
b) a temporary seal over the bottom member; and  
c) a cap; wherein the bottom member with the temporary seal and the cap have a removable protective foil covering; and wherein the foil provides a connection between the bottom member and the cap.

92. (Withdrawn) The package of claim 91 wherein the foil is removed prior to a first use of the contact lens.

93. (Withdrawn) The package of claim 92 wherein the cap connects to the bottom member after the foil is removed.

94. (Withdrawn) The package of claim 93 wherein the cap connects to the bottom member by one of snapping on or twisting on.

95. (Withdrawn) The package of claim 91 wherein the cap further comprises a gasket.

96. (Withdrawn) The package of claim 95 wherein the gasket provides a fluid tight seal when the cap is connected to the bottom member.

97. (Withdrawn) The package of claim 91 further comprising a blister pack.

98. (Withdrawn) The package of claim 91 wherein the foil provides a connection that is hinge-like and flexible.